

Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier

January 18, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60—Relative to California Teen Safe Driving Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 60, as introduced, DeSaulnier. California Teen Safe Driving Week.

This measure would declare the first week of April 2012 and that week every year thereafter as “California Teen Safe Driving Week” to correspond with the National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The state would observe the week with appropriate activities that promote the practice of safe driving among teenage drivers.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Law enforcement and other first responders,
2 teachers, parents, and friends are all deeply impacted by the loss
3 of teens from motor vehicle crashes on California’s roadways; and
4 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of
5 death for teens in the United States accounting for more than one
6 in three deaths; and
7 WHEREAS, Per mile driven, teen drivers 16 to 19 years of age
8 are four times more likely to crash than older drivers; and
9 WHEREAS, In 2009, more than 3,000 teens in the United States
10 15 to 19 years of age were killed and more than 350,000 were
11 treated in emergency departments for injuries suffered in motor
12 vehicle crashes; and
13 WHEREAS, Seventy-seven percent of the 16-year-old drivers
14 killed in motor vehicle crashes in California were at fault; and

1 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of all fatal teen collisions are
2 caused by reckless and distracted driving and about 25 percent of
3 the fatalities involve alcohol and drugs; and

4 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that California has the highest rate
5 of seatbelt usage in the nation, 37 percent of the 16-year-old
6 passengers who died in motor vehicle crashes in California were
7 not wearing seatbelts; and

8 WHEREAS, Approximately two-thirds of the deaths of teen
9 passengers 13 to 19 years of age occur when other teens are
10 driving; and

11 WHEREAS, One in three teen drivers are involved in motor
12 vehicle crashes during their first year of driving; and

13 WHEREAS, There is no in-car driver training in California's
14 high schools and although driver's education is required in
15 California's public school curriculum, only about one-third of the
16 high schools actually offer it due to budget and staff limitations;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, A 16-year-old soccer player has had about 1,500
19 hours of coached soccer practice, but only 50 hours of driving
20 practice before getting his or her license; and

21 WHEREAS, A manicurist is required to have 400 supervised
22 hours of training in order to get a license, but a teen driver needs
23 only six hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience supervised
24 by a professional; and

25 WHEREAS, It is necessary to raise awareness; reach teens,
26 parents, and teachers; and influence change in risky driving
27 behavior in order to reduce the number of teens killed on
28 California's roadways each year; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the first week of April 2012, and that
31 week every year thereafter, be declared "California Teen Safe
32 Driving Week" to correspond with the National Distracted Driving
33 Awareness Month; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That with the help of law enforcement organizations,
35 teachers, parents, students, and the Impact Teen Drivers program,
36 a nonprofit organization aimed at stopping reckless and distracted
37 teen driving, the State of California will observe the first week of
38 April 2012 and that week every year thereafter, with appropriate

- 1 activities that promote the practice of safe driving among teen
- 2 drivers.

O